

7 July 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Ervin Bill - S. 782


1. On 3 July 1969 I called on Senator John L. McClellan to urge that if possible he attend meetings of the Ervin Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights during the week of 7 July, when we understand S. 782 might come up. I said we hoped Senator McClellan could call for the Agency to appear in executive session and explain its need for certain exemptions. Senator McClellan said he fully sympathized with our problem but his tight schedule made it doubtful whether he could attend most of the Ervin Subcommittee sessions. Senator McClellan commented that if our problem was as serious as we had suggested, the White House should express some concern. Senator McClellan further remarked he could see no reason why we shouldn't directly approach other members of the Subcommittee for their support.

2. Following my meeting with Senator McClellan, I talked with his Administrative Assistant Winston Bryant who we had already supplied with backup material, and who promised to do what he could to ensure McClellan's appearances at the Ervin Subcommittee sessions.

3. On 7 July I talked with Sam Papich who informed me that the FBI did not plan any action on the Ervin bill problem at this time.

4. Also on 7 July I talked with Chairman David N. Henderson, Subcommittee on Manpower and Civil Service, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, who apparently was not up-to-date on the situation in the Senate. He did remark that Ervin had asked him to meet to discuss the problem, but he had not had an opportunity to respond. Henderson also commented that apparently public pressure for the Ervin bill was not as great now as it had been during the last session. Henderson's only concrete suggestion for us was that the Director should try to get Senators Dirksen and Mansfield to press for an opportunity for us to testify in executive session.

STATINTL


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